

Outdoor Report

The week of December 22nd, 2014



South Dakota



Wildlife Division

"Serving People, Managing Wildlife"

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- Ice conditions have declined across the region. No vehicle travel is advised on all area lakes.
 - Muzzleloader deer season runs December 1st – 31st. Antlerless muzzleloader deer season runs January 1st – 15th.
 - The extended antlerless firearm season opens from December 27th to January 4th. Only antlerless deer license are valid during this season and any deer licenses are not valid. Archery any deer licenses are only valid until December 31st. The antlerless archery deer season is open from January 1st – 15th.
 - Sand Lake Refuge archery deer season reopened and runs December 8th – 31st. **Reminder:** Archery antlerless deer licenses are not valid in Sand Lake Refuge.
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Brown County



Fishing Report:

Richmond Lake: Fishing has been slow. A few bluegills and some walleye have been caught. The ice is 8 to 10 inches thick. There is open water by the north and west bridges.

Elm Lake: Fishing has been slow. The ice is 8 to 12 inches thick.

James River: Parts of the river still have open water. Ice fishing is not advised on the river at this time.

Elm River: No fishing activity.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters are finding more pheasants in southern Brown County. Hunters have had to work to get a limit of birds. Most hunters are finding pheasants in cattail sloughs.

Waterfowl: All seasons closed.

Deer: Deer are concentrated around food and heavy cover.

Clark County



Fishing Report:

Dry Lake #2: Fishermen are catching a few perch and walleye.

Dry Lake #1: Little activity.

Swan Lake: Little activity.

Antelope Lake/ Indian Springs: Fishermen are catching a few nice Walleye and Perch.

Reid Lake: Fishermen are catching a few perch and walleye.

Casey's Slough: Fishermen are catching walleye. The walleye are averaging on the smaller side with a few nice fish being caught.

Pepper Slough: Fishermen are finding a few walleye.

Mankey's Slough: Fishermen are catching a few nice walleye and perch.



Hunting Report:

Deer: Hunters are having the best luck around food and shelter. Clark County does NOT have a January antlerless season.

Pheasants: Hunters are still reporting about 2 – 3 birds per hunter. Birds are spooky this time of year and a little more difficult to hunt.

Codington County



Fishing Report:

Pelican Lake: No activity.

Lake Kampeska: There have been a couple fishermen this week out from Stoney Point. Reports have been slow with anglers catching a couple walleye, panfish and some northern pike.

Dry Lake: Most anglers are fishing the west end of the lake, but reports have been slow.

Goose Lake: Goose Lake continues to be pretty busy with varying reports. We want to stress to anglers parking in the road right of way to pull off far enough so through traffic is not congested. Also, make sure to pick up littler.

Long Lake: A few anglers have tried Long Lake this week and have had some success on perch with an occasional walleye mixed in.

Blythe Slough: Blythe continues to be one of our busier perch sloughs. It has been inconsistent, but on the good days, anglers are coming off with some nice perch over 10 inches.

Grass Lake: Not much traffic this week, but there are a few guys still catching some really nice walleye.

3rd Ave Pond: Still offering good opportunity to anglers in and around town to catch bluegill, trout or sunfish.

Stink: Smaller perch is still the consensus from anglers coming off of Stink.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Not many pheasant hunters out. Weather has been favorable for hunters to get out. With school not in session during the Christmas Holiday and warmer temperatures, we encourage folks to get out and take advantage of the late season roosters.

Deer: Deer are starting to disperse out of there wintering groups this week with the warmer weather. This could make filling those last minute tags a bit more troublesome. Codington County does NOT have a January antlerless season.

Day County



Fishing Report:

Bitter: Anglers are struggling to catch walleye over 15 inches and have only harvested a few nice perch.

Waubay: Anglers seem to be concentrated on the north end of the lake near Grenville and Buckshot's landing. They are catching some nice perch and the occasional walleye, crappie and bluegill. Use extreme caution around ice heaves as a couple of vehicles fell through this past weekend.

Enemy Swim: Anglers are having minimal success finding the bluegill, but are catching an occasional nice walleye.

Pickrel Lake: Anglers are catching a few crappies on the north end of the lake.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Not many hunters were out this last week with the poor weather conditions. Birds are sticking to heavy cover and can be difficult to get close to.

Deer: Day County does NOT have a January antlerless season.

Deuel County



Fishing Report:

Lake Alice: A few perch and northern pike are being caught throughout the day. Anglers are picking up a few decent walleye in the early mornings and late evening hours. Ice conditions are inconsistent and poor.

Lake Cochrane: Very little activity.

Round: A few northern pike are being caught.

School: Anglers continue to catch northern pike close to shore on the south end of the lake. A few smaller perch are scattered in the catches as well.

Bullhead Lakes: A few anglers have ventured out with very little success.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters have been having a little more success with the snow. Cattails along frozen sloughs have provided pretty good opportunity for pheasant hunters.

Deer: Deer activity and movement has slowed drastically in the last week or two. Most of the deer are grouping up and moving to wintering grounds. Deuel County does NOT have a January antlerless season.

Faulk County



Fishing Report:

Lake Faulkton: A few bluegills are being caught.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Birds are wising up and flushing early with the warm weather. Hunters that are finding concentrated birds are having great success.

Deer: Deer have started grouping up in their wintering grounds.

Grant County



Fishing Report:

Big Stone Lake: The perch bite continues to be good. Anglers are mainly focused around the southern end of the lake near the Rearing Ponds Lake Access. Spikes and a small jig have been the most successful. A few walleye are being caught on the north end of the lake on the flats. Ice conditions are very inconsistent and the quality of the ice has declined significantly. Please use caution.

Summit Lake: Fishing has been slow.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters are still going to have to put on a lot of miles walking to find much success.

Deer: Many of the deer have moved in to their wintering grounds. Daytime deer activity has been slow. Grant County does NOT have a January antlerless season.

Hamlin County



Fishing Report:

Lake Poinsett: Still nothing consistent coming from Lake Poinsett this week. It seems like most anglers manage a few keepers, whether it be walleye or perch. **Reminder: there is a 15" minimum length on walleye.**

Fedt Slough: A great place for catching plenty of small perch. With warm temperatures, this is a good place to take youngsters looking for some action.

Clear Lake (Thomas): Another slow week on Clear. No fishing being reported.

Three Buck: Plenty of small perch to be caught. Sounds like the walleye bite has been slow lately.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Pheasant hunters have been few and far between. With nice weather in the forecast and families home for the holidays, chasing late season roosters could be a good way to get out of the house.

Deer: The weather has allowed deer to disperse out of their wintering grounds this week. This could make filling those late tags a bit more difficult. Hamlin County does NOT have a January antlerless season.

Marshall County



Fishing Report:

Opitz: Slow.

Piyas: Anglers moving around are catching a few walleye and perch.

Roy: A few northern pike, perch and walleye are being caught, but overall, slow.

Clear: Slow. A few bass have been caught.

White: Some nice crappie and the occasional walleye are being caught in the morning and evenings.

Stink: A few walleye are being caught in the morning and evening.

South Buffalo Lake: Walleye, northern pike, perch and bluegills are being caught.



Hunting Report:

Deer: The deer are moving in the morning and evenings. Some deer are beginning to congregate in typical wintering areas. Marshall County does NOT have a January antlerless season.

Pheasant: The hunters are finding birds in heavy cover. Birds are very spooky. Pheasant hunters are having good success in cattails and tree lines. Use caution on small sloughs as some ice may be unsafe. Be safe and have a Merry Christmas!

McPherson & Edmunds Counties



Fishing Report:

Scatterwood Lake: Anglers have been catching a few walleye and northern pike. Evenings seems to be the best time to try.

Mina Lake: Anglers are picking up a few perch and bluegill. Fishing is slow, but anglers are getting a few bites.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Success has dropped off. Pheasants have spread out with the nice weather. Hunters have to work really hard to get any birds. Pheasants can be found just about anywhere now.

Deer: Deer have started to spread out with the nice weather.

Coyotes: Hunters looking for coyotes will find plenty in this area. Most landowners will allow access to hunt coyotes.

Roberts County



Fishing Report:

Lake Traverse: Some activity, but action is slow.

Dry Wood Lake: A few walleye and northern pike are being caught. Be cautious of the ice conditions.



Hunting Report:

Grouse: Grouse hunters are struggling to find birds. Season closes January 4th.

Pheasant: Hunters had difficulty finding birds, but they are finding one or two. Season closes January 4th.

Deer: Youth, muzzleloader and archery deer hunters can still find deer. Roberts County does NOT have a January antlerless season.

Spink County



Fishing Report:

Twin Lake: Anglers are catching some small walleyes.

Mud Lake: No fishing activity observed.

Cottonwood Lake: Vehicle and fishing activity has slowed. A few pike are being caught.

Redfield Lake: No fishing activity observed.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters are having decent success in late season. The birds are a bit jumpy in the warm weather. Larger groups with blockers are having good luck.

Deer: Deer are getting grouped up in their wintering grounds.